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5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein, in the patch pattern, the identical patches are disposed at the different positions in a main-scan direction and a sub-scan direction.

6. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the patch varies according to a kind of recording material to be used in the image output unit.

5 7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the number of patches at a high density portion is larger than the number of patches at a low density portion.

10 8. An image processing method for instructing an image output unit to output onto a recording medium a reference image based on a predetermined patch pattern, and generating an image output condition of the image output unit on the basis of read data of the reference image output by the image output unit, wherein

15 in the patch pattern, the number of patches of black is different from the number of patches of another color.

20 9. An image processing apparatus which comprises instruction means for instructing an image output unit to output onto a recording medium a reference image based on a predetermined patch pattern, and generation means for generating an image output condition of the image output unit on the basis of read data obtained by reading the reference image output from the image output unit with use of a flatbed scanner, wherein

25 in the patch pattern, plural identical patches are

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